

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A safety clip for a medical catheter that comprises a shaft and a sleeve, the safety clip comprising:

an elongate body having a first end, a second end and an intermediate portion, the elongate body first end including a slot;

an attachment member including a gripping jaw comprising an attachment side and a pair of lever members positioned to selectively open the gripping jaw, and a bore adjacent the gripping jaw, wherein the elongate body is disposed in the bore; ~~and~~

a sleeve abutment surface slidably disposed in the elongate body slot; and at the first end of the body and

a shaft abutment surface coupled to at the second end of the elongate body spaced from the first end of the body, the sleeve abutment surface and the shaft abutment surface coupled to the shaft, one of the sleeve abutment surface and shaft abutment surface defining a sliding member configured for stepless adjustment of the distance separating said sleeve abutment surface and said shaft abutment surface.

2. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member defines one of the sleeve abutment surface and the shaft abutment surface.

3. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member is slidable on the body.

4. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 1, wherein the attachment member is positioned along the intermediate portion of the elongate body.

5. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 1, wherein the slider is configured to slide on the body and defines one of the sleeve abutment surface and the shaft abutment surface.

6. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 1, wherein the slider comprises a hinged member.

7. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the sleeve abutment surface and the shaft abutment surface is defined by a pair of jaws with a jaw opening adapted to accommodate a range of diameters of the shaft or sleeve.

8. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 1, further comprising a releasing mechanism for releasing the attachment member from the catheter, without disturbing the spacing between said abutment surfaces.

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously presented) A safety clip according to claim 1, wherein the distance between said abutment surfaces can be selected, and fixed against any further adjustment.

11. (Currently amended) A safety clip for a medical catheter device including a shaft, comprising:

an elongate body having a first end and a second end spaced from the first end, the elongate body first end including a slot;

an attachment member including a gripping jaw comprising an attachment side and a pair of lever members positioned to selectively open the gripping jaw, and a bore adjacent the gripping jaw, wherein the elongate body is positioned through the bore; ~~and~~

a first spacing member slidably disposed in the elongate body slot; and
~~coupled to the first end of the elongate body;~~

a second spacing member coupled to the second end of the elongate body, the first and second spacing members coupled to the shaft, at least one of the first spacing member and elongate body configured to permit movement of the first spacing member relative to the second end of the elongate body.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the first spacing member includes a bore configured to permit passage of the elongate member.

14. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the attachment member includes a bore configured to permit passage of the elongate body.

15. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the attachment member defines a second spacing member.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 16, wherein at least one of the elongate member and second spacing member is configured to permit movement of the second spacing member relative to the first end of the elongate body.

18. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 16, wherein the elongate member includes a first section and a second section connected by the attachment member.

19. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 18, wherein the attachment member comprising a hinge member configured to adjust an angle between the first section and second section.

20. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the elongate body includes a first section and a second section including a bore configured to receive the first section.

21. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the attachment member is positioned at an intermediate portion of the elongate body between the first end and the second end.

22. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the attachment member includes an engagement member.

23. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 22, wherein the engagement member includes a plurality of sets of jaws, each of the sets of jaws configured to grip a different diameter member of a medical catheter.

24. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 22, wherein the engagement member includes at least one set of jaws comprising thermoplastic material.

25. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 22, wherein the engagement member includes a threaded member configured to turn within a threaded bore of the attachment member.

26. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the first spacing member is configured to engage a portion of a medical catheter.

27. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 11, wherein the safety clip is attached to a medical catheter including a shaft and a sleeve together configured for relative movement, the sleeve including a housing and the shaft including a stopping member, wherein the first spacing member abuts the stopping member.

28. (Withdrawn) The safety clip according to claim 27, wherein the attachment member abuts the housing and engages the shaft.

29. (Canceled).

30. (Previously presented) The safety clip according to claim 29, wherein the second spacing member is fixed to the elongate body and abuts the housing.